

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- **FIG. 2** is a representative reverse phase HPLC trace of ~~3'-TTCGATAAGTCTAG-5'~~ 5'-GATCTGAATAGCTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), 5' labeled with **15**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--**FIG. 3** is a representative mass spectrum of ~~3'-TTCGATAAGTCTAG-5'~~ 5'-GATCTGAATAGCTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), 5' labeled with **15**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--**FIG. 4** is a representative anion exchange HPLC trace of ~~3'-TTCGATAAGTCTAG-5'~~ 5'-GATCTGAATAGCTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), 5' labeled with **25**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--**FIG. 5** is a representative mass spectrum of ~~3'-TTCGATAAGTCTAG-5'~~ 5'-GATCTGAATAGCTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), 5' labeled with compound **25**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--**FIG. 6** is a representative reverse phase HPLC trace of ~~3'-TTCGATAAGTCTAG-5'~~ 5'-GATCTGAATAGCTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), 5' labeled with compound **19**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--**FIG. 7** is a representative mass spectrum of ~~3'-TTCGATAAGTCTAG-5'~~ 5'-GATCTGAATAGCTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), 5' labeled with compound **19**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--**FIG. 8** is a representative anion exchange HPLC trace of ~~3'-TTCGATAAGTCTAG-5'~~
5'-GATCTGAATAGCTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), 3' labeled by using dye bearing CPG compound
29.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 25, with the following rewritten
paragraph:

--**FIG. 9** is a representative mass spectrum of ~~3'-TTCGATAAGTCTAG-5'~~ 5'-
GATCTGAATAGCTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), 3' labeled by using dye bearing CPG compound 29.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 27, with the following rewritten
paragraph:

--**FIG. 10** is an overlay of absorption and emission spectra of ~~5'-TTTTTTTTTTT-3'~~
(SEQ. ID NO: 2), 5' labeled with 25.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 1, with the following rewritten
paragraph:

--**FIG. 11** is an overlay of absorption and emission spectra of ~~5'-TTTTTTTTTTT-3'~~
(SEQ. ID NO: 2), 5' labeled with 15.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 3, with the following rewritten
paragraph:

--**FIG. 12** is an overlay of absorption and emission spectra of ~~5'-TTTTTTTTTTT-3'~~
(SEQ. ID NO: 2), 5' labeled with 6.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 5, with the following rewritten
paragraph:

--**FIG. 13** is an overlay of absorption and emission spectra of ~~5'-TTTTTTTTTTT-3'~~
(SEQ. ID NO: 2), 5' labeled with 19.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 17, with the following rewritten
paragraph:

--The absorption and emission profiles of conjugates of the xanthenes of the invention 25,
15, 6, and 19 and a model nucleic acid (~~TTTTTTTTTTTT~~) 5'-TTTTTTTTTTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:2)
are shown in **FIG. 10**, **FIG. 11**, **FIG 12**, **FIG. 13**, respectively.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 81, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--DNA Fragments ~~3'-TTTTTTTTTTT-5'~~ 5'-TTTTTTTTTTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:2) and ~~3'-TTCGATAAGTCTAG-5'~~ 5'-GATCTGAATAGCTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1) were made at a 200 nm scale on 3'-glycolate CPGs (van der Laan, et al., *Tetrahedron Lett.* **38**: 2252 (1997)) with cyanoethyl phosphoramidite monomers on a Biosearch 8750TM DNA synthesizer. Protecting groups on the exocyclic amine groups of A, C, and G were benzoyl, acetyl and dimethylformamidine, respectively. After the synthesis was complete, the 5' DMT group was removed (with 3% dichloroacetic acid in dichloromethane) and the synthesis column with the CPG containing the DNA was washed with dry acetonitrile.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 81, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--DNA Fragments ~~3'-TTTTT-5'~~, ~~3'-TTTTTTTTTTT-5'~~ 5'-TTTTTTTTTTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:2), DNA Fragments ~~3'-TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT-5'~~ 5'-TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:3), labeled with 6 were prepared as described above, except that the fragments were cleaved from the CPG support using a solution of t-butylamine (25%):methanol (25%):water (50%).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 83, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Quantitation was obtained using primers and a dual-labeled probe derived from sequence encoding the ApoB (apolipoprotein B) gene and from the TelomeraseRT (Telomerase reverse transcriptase) gene. BHQ1 and BHQ2 quenchers, described in copending U.S. Patent application No. 09/567,863, were incorporated into the primers (see, for example, Walton et al., *Bioconjugate Chemistry* **13**:1155-1158 (2002)). The xanthenes **15**, **19** and **25** were utilized to incorporate a fluorophore at the 5'-terminus. Gene-specific primers and fluorogenic probes were designed based upon the coding sequences of the DNAs. The sequences for the primers and probes (forward primer, reverse primer and probe) used for the ApoB and Telomerase are as follows:

TelomeraseRT.fl	<u>5'-CAGGTGGAGACCCTGAGAA-3' (SEQ ID NO:4)</u>
TelomeraseRT.rl	<u>5'-ACACCTTTGGTCACTCCAAAT-3' (SEQ ID NO:5)</u>
TelomeraseRt.pl	<u>5'-TCCCAGAGCTCCCAGGGTCC-3' (SEQ ID NO:6)</u>

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ApoB.fl	<u>5'- TGAAGGTGGAGGACATTCCTCTA-3' (SEQ ID NO:7)</u>
ApoB.rl	<u>5'- CTGGAATTGCGATTTCTGGTAA-3' (SEQ ID NO:8)</u>
ApoB.pl	<u>5'- CGAGAATCACCCCTGCCAGACTTCCGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:9)</u>